



## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

*RE: Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84; Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79*

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Please accept this letter from the City of Kettering, Ohio as a statement of grave concern regarding the Federal Communications Commission's proposed Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order regarding state and local governance of small cell wireless infrastructure deployment.

Kettering is an inner-ring suburb of Dayton, located in the southwest portion of Ohio, with a population of approximately 56,000 residents.

We certainly share the Commission's intention to facilitate expansion of cutting-edge broadband services for all Americans. We respect the Commission's efforts to seek input from local governments on this issue.

The City of Kettering remains deeply concerned about several provisions of this proposal and the negative impact those provisions will have on our community and local governments nationwide. Local governments have an important responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, and we are concerned that these preemption measures compromise that traditional authority and expose wireless infrastructure providers to unnecessary liability.

- **The FCC's proposed new collocation shot clock category is too extreme.** The proposal designates any preexisting structure, regardless of its design or suitability for attaching wireless equipment, as eligible for this new expedited 60 day shot clock. When paired with the FCC's previous decision exempting small wireless facilities from federal historic and environmental review, this places an unreasonable burden on local governments to prevent historic preservation, environmental, or safety harms to the community. The addition of up to three cubic feet of antenna and 28 cubic feet of additional equipment to a structure not originally designed to carry that equipment is substantial and may necessitate more review than the FCC has allowed in its proposal.

- **The FCC's proposed definition of "effective prohibition" is overly broad.** The draft report and order proposes a definition of "effective prohibition" that invites challenges to long-standing local rights of way requirements unless they meet a subjective and unclear set of guidelines. While the Commission may have intended to preserve local review, this framing and definition of effective prohibition opens local governments to the likelihood of more, not less, conflict and litigation over requirements for aesthetics, spacing, and undergrounding.

The City of Kettering has had a Right-of-Way Control Ordinance in effect since 1999, which was recently updated to include Design Guidelines for Small Cell Facilities and Wireless Support Structures. Kettering has a long history of successfully managing its public rights-of-way, without overly burdensome or restrictive Federal and State regulations.

- **The FCC's proposed recurring fee structure is an unreasonable overreach that will harm local policy innovation.** We disagree with the FCC's interpretation of "fair and reasonable compensation" as meaning approximately \$270 per small cell site. Local governments share the federal government's goal of ensuring affordable broadband access for every American, regardless of their income level or address. That is why many cities have worked to negotiate fair deals with wireless providers, which may exceed that number or provide additional benefits to the community. Additionally, the Commission has moved away from rate regulation in recent years. Why does it see fit to so narrowly dictate the rates charged by municipalities?

The City of Kettering participated with other local governments in extensive negotiations with the State of Ohio and service providers to determine small cell regulations in our state. The FCC's action subverts both local and state authority and we strongly object to the provisions which will further restrict local authority and stymie local innovation, while limiting the obligations providers have to our community.

We urge you to oppose this declaratory ruling and report and order.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald E. Patterson  
Mayor



Mark W. Schwieterman  
City Manager